

Risca Urban District Council

Medical Officer's &  
Sanitary Inspector's



# ANNUAL REPORTS

For the Year  
1952



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Sanitary Inspector's

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# Risca Urban District Council

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended 31st December, 1952

To the Chairman and Members of the Risca Urban District Council

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour of presenting my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for your District for the year ended 31st December, 1952. This report is compiled according to instructions contained in Circular 2/51 (Wales).

### SECTION "A"

#### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Area of the District (in acres) .. ..         | 4,199   |
| Population 1952 .. .. .                       | 15,020  |
| Rateable Value .. .. .                        | £54,087 |
| Sum represented by one penny rate (estimated) | £192    |

#### Vital Statistics

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population | 15.2  |
| The Birth Rate for England and Wales .. .. .              | 15.3  |
| The Birth Rate for Monmouthshire was .. .. .              | 17.17 |

#### Infant Mortality

|   | Total | Males | Females |
|---|-------|-------|---------|
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year                                  | 1     | 1     | —       |
| Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births |       |       | 4.54    |
| Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population       |       |       | 12.01   |
| Death Rate for England and Wales .. .. .                        |       |       | 11.3    |
| Death Rate for County of Monmouth .. .. .                       |       |       | 11.52   |
| Infant Death Rate for County of Monmouth .. .. .                |       |       | 33.87   |

### Ages at Death of Children under 1 year

|                     |    |    |    |    |    |       |
|---------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| Under 1 week        | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | -     |
| 1-2 weeks           | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | -     |
| 2-3 weeks           | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | -     |
| 3-4 weeks           | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | -     |
|                     |    |    |    |    |    | <hr/> |
| Total under 1 month | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | -     |
| 1-3 months          | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | -     |
| 3-6 months          | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | -     |
| 6-9 months          | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1     |
| 9-12 months         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | -     |
|                     |    |    |    |    |    | <hr/> |
| Total under 1 year  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1     |
|                     |    |    |    |    |    | <hr/> |

There are no special causes of sickness during the year which need reporting on. The general conditions of health were good.

### CAUSES OF DEATH

|   | M. | F. |
|---|----|----|
| Tuberculosis, respiratory               | -  | -  |
| Tuberculosis, other                     | -  | -  |
| Syphilitic disease                      | -  | -  |
| Diphtheria                              | -  | -  |
| Whooping Cough                          | -  | -  |
| Meningococcal infections                | -  | -  |
| Acute poliomyelitis                     | -  | -  |
| Measles                                 | -  | -  |
| Other infective and parastic diseases   | -  | -  |
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach             | 5  | 1  |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus      | 4  | 2  |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast              | -  | 3  |
| Malignant neoplasm, uterus              | -  | 3  |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 7  | 6  |
| Lenkaemia, alenkaemia                   | 1  | -  |
| Diabetes                                | 1  | -  |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system      | 12 | 7  |
| Coronary disease, angina                | 17 | 8  |
| Hyper-tension with heart disease        | 2  | -  |
| Other heart disease                     | 17 | 8  |
| Other circulatory disease               | 7  | 12 |
| Influenza                               | 1  | -  |
| Pneumonia                               | 4  | 3  |
| Bronchitis                              | 9  | 4  |
| Other diseases of respiratory system    | 1  | 2  |



|  |       |    |
|--|-------|----|
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. ..        | 2     | 1  |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. ..   | 1     | 2  |
| Nephritis and nephrosis .. ..              | 2     | 1  |
| Hyperplasia of prostate .. ..              | 1     | -  |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortions .. ..     | -     | -  |
| Congenital malformations .. ..             | -     | -  |
| Other defined, and ill-defined diseases .. | 8     | 10 |
| Motor vehicle accidents .. ..              | -     | 1  |
| All other accidents .. ..                  | 2     | 2  |
| Suicide .. ..                              | -     | -  |
| Homicide and operations of war .. ..       | -     | -  |
|  | <hr/> |    |
| All causes .. ..                           | 104   | 76 |
|  | <hr/> |    |

**Social Conditions.**—The chief Industries carried on in this Area are coal-mining and its subsidiary industries, also steel manufacturing. There are also several stone quarries and brick works.

## SECTION " B "

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

**1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.** One Medical Officer of Health and one Sanitary Inspector (whole-time Officers).

**2. Hospital Services.** Hospital Services are administered by the Regional Hospital Board as and from 5th July, 1948.

The Monmouthshire County Council is responsible for administering the following services under Part III. of the Act:—

- (a) Care of Mothers and Young Children.
- (b) Midwifery Services.
- (c) Health Visiting.
- (d) Home Nursing.
- (e) Vaccination and Immunisation.
- (f) Ambulance Services.
- (g) Prevention of Illness (Care and After-Care).
- (h) Domestic Help Scheme.
- (i) Duties under Lunacy and Mental Treatment and Mental Deficiency Acts.

**SECTION " C "**  
**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

**1. Water Supplies**

Complaints are received during the course of the year from various parts of the area with regard to the quantity of the water supplied. The parts which seem to be affected particularly are Hill Street, Priory Street, Woodview Road, and those situated on the higher levels.

This important matter has been discussed many times by the Council but it appears that the real reason for the trouble is due to the fact that the Abertillery and District Water Board is unable to obtain the necessary amount of water to satisfy the needs of the whole area.

It is to be hoped that every effort will be made to ensure that in the very near future all parts of the district will be supplied with an adequate and pure supply of water.

**2. Drains and Sewerage.**

There has been no important extensions to the sewerage and drainage system of the District during the year.

**3. Rivers and Streams**

No action was taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams in the area during the year.

**4. Closet Accommodation**

Particulars will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

**5. Public Cleansing**

There were no extensions or improvements during the year in the arrangements for public cleansing.

**6. Sanitary Inspection of the Area**

A classified statement of the premises visited, the defects and nuisances discovered and the action and result of action taken with regard to these will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

**7. Shops**

The shops in the area are periodically visited by your Sanitary Inspector and appropriate action taken to deal with any nuisances or defects discovered.

**8. Smoke Abatement**

No action was taken in reference to this paragraph.



9. Swimming Baths and Pools

There is one open-air Swimming Pool owned by the Council. This Pool is used to a great extent and is conducted in a very satisfactory manner.

10. Camping Sites

There are no camping sites in this area.

11. Eradication of Bed Bugs

11 houses were found to be infested with bugs. In each case complete eradication was effected. All cracks, crevices, woodwork, etc., were treated with the blow lamp and then sprayed with Zaldecide.

12. Schools

The Schools in the District were visited during the year and when defects were found they were reported to the Education Authority.

SECTION " D "

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)  | 96  |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose   | 258 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | —   |
| (b) Number of inspections for the purpose  | —   |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation                             | —   |
| (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be in full respects fit for human habitation        | —   |

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | 80 |
|---|----|

### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices .. .. .   | — |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. . | — |
| (a) By Owners   |   |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners   |   |

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. . | 5 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices                   | 5 |
| (a) By Owners .. .. .  | 5 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners  | — |

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made .. .. . | 3 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .    | — |

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .   | — |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. .. . | — |

### 4. Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. .. . | 53  |
| (2) Number of families dwelling therein .. .. .                        | 87  |
| (3) Number of persons dwelling therein .. .. .                         | 423 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. .      | —  |
| (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. .      | 7  |
| (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..                              | 34 |
| (d) Particulars of any houses becoming overcrowded after first relief .. .. . | —  |

## SECTION " E "

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) **Milk Supply.**—Dairies have been regularly inspected and samples of milk taken and examined for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli, under the various Milk and Dairies Orders. For details see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(b) **Meat and Other Foods.**—For action taken with regard to Meat and other Foods, Slaughter Houses, etc., see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(c) **Adulteration.**—No special action was taken under these Acts and Regulations.

(d) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**—Ample use is made of the facilities provided by the County Laboratory.

(e) **Nutrition.**—No action has been taken under this Section.

## SECTION " F "

### PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

All cases of notifiable diseases are visited by your Sanitary Inspector. If necessary, arrangements are made for the removal of patients to an Isolation Hospital.

There were 13 cases of Scarlet Fever as compared with 35 during the previous year.

One case of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis was notified during the year.

#### Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children immunised during the year ... 157  
There were no cases of Diphtheria notified during the year.





## Tuberculosis

| Age<br>Periods | Cases Notified |    |      |    | Deaths    |    |      |    |
|----------------|----------------|----|------|----|-----------|----|------|----|
|                | Pulmonary      |    | Non- |    | Pulmonary |    | Non- |    |
|                | M.             | F. | M.   | F. | M.        | F. | M.   | F. |
| 0- 1           |                |    |      |    |           |    |      |    |
| 1- 5           |                |    |      |    |           |    |      |    |
| 5-15           | 1              |    |      |    |           |    |      |    |
| 15-25          | 1              | 2  |      |    |           |    |      |    |
| 25-35          | 4              | 3  |      |    |           |    |      |    |
| 35-45          |                | 2  |      |    |           |    |      |    |
| 45-65          | 2              | 1  |      |    |           |    |      |    |
| 65 and over    | 1              |    |      |    |           |    |      |    |
| Total          | 9              | 8  |      |    |           |    |      |    |

## Inspections of Factories and Workshops

| Premises                           | Inspections | Written<br>Notices | Prose-<br>cutions |
|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Factories with Mechanical Power    | 23          | —                  | —                 |
| Factories without Mechanical Power | 12          | —                  | —                 |
|                                    | <u>35</u>   | <u>—</u>           | <u>—</u>          |

## Defects Found in Factories and Workshops

|                                | Defects<br>found | Defects<br>remedied | Refer to<br>H.M. Insp. | Prose-<br>cutions |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Want of Cleanliness ..         | —                | —                   | —                      | —                 |
| Overcrowding ..                | —                | —                   | —                      | —                 |
| Unreasonable Temperature       | —                | —                   | —                      | —                 |
| Inadequate Ventilation         | —                | —                   | —                      | —                 |
| Ineffective drainage of floors | —                | —                   | —                      | —                 |
| Sanitary Conveniences          | —                | —                   | —                      | —                 |
| Insufficient .. ..             | —                | —                   | —                      | —                 |
| Unsuitable or defective        | —                | —                   | —                      | —                 |
| Not separate for sexes         | —                | —                   | —                      | —                 |
| Other offences .. ..           | —                | —                   | —                      | —                 |

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

K. P. GILES,

Medical Officer of Health.



# Risca Urban District Council

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## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year ending 31st December, 1952

To the Chairman and Members of the Risca Urban District Council—  
Sir/Madam,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report of the work accomplished by the Public Health Department for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

### Statement of Sanitary and Housing Work completed during the year

#### Exterior

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Roofs repaired and made weatherproof .. .. .    | 41 |
| External walls repaired or repointed .. .. .    | 11 |
| Doors and frames repaired or renewed .. .. .    | 8  |
| Eavesgutters repaired or renewed .. .. .        | 10 |
| Rainwater downpipes repaired or renewed .. .. . | 10 |
| Chimney stacks repaired .. .. .                 | 3  |

#### Interior

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Floors repaired or renewed .. .. .     | 8  |
| Windows repaired or renewed .. .. .    | 21 |
| Walls replastered .. .. .              | 19 |
| Ceilings replastered .. .. .           | 16 |
| Fireplaces repaired or renewed .. .. . | 8  |
| Window cords fixed .. .. .             | 26 |

#### Drainage

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed .. .. .            | 8 |
| Flush pipe repaired or renewed .. .. .                   | 4 |
| Burst water pipes repaired .. .. .                       | 4 |
| Seats repaired or renewed .. .. .                        | 3 |
| Drains repaired .. .. .                                  | 6 |
| Inspection Chambers repaired and provided with covers .. | 5 |
| New waste pipes fixed .. .. .                            | 3 |
| New pedestal pans provided and fixed .. .. .             | 3 |
| New wash-up basins .. .. .                               | 2 |
| Doors of W.C. compartments repaired or renewed .. ..     | 1 |

#### Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

During the year much time was devoted to a thorough inspection of the butchers' premises in the district and a detailed report was presented to the Council.

During the course of my inspection attention was paid to such details as general cleanliness of the shop itself and fittings, construction and condition of walls, floors, ceilings, lighting and ventilation, water supply and sanitary accommodation.

I expressed the opinion that while good premises are essential one factor is of paramount importance, and that is the cleanliness of the person both in the manner in which he maintains his shop and in the attention he gives to his own personal habits.

Some considerable time was spent during my inspection in discussing this matter with each person concerned, and I consider it time well spent.

I feel that the butchers appreciate this important question, and after having spent a considerable amount of time in carrying out this inspection I feel that I can assure the Council that the butchers generally are making every effort to conduct this important branch of the food trade in a creditable manner.

The following are particulars of meat and other foodstuffs surrendered and destroyed during the year:—

|                            |    |    |    |    |            |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|------------|
| 238 lbs. English Beef      | .. | .. | .. | .. | Bone Taint |
| 112 lbs. Imported Beef     | .. | .. | .. | .. | Bone Taint |
| 15 lbs. 6 ozs. Pork        | .. | .. | .. | .. | Abcess     |
| 31 lbs. Bacon              | .. | .. | .. | .. | Bone Taint |
| 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Bacon | .. | .. | .. | .. | Bruising   |
| 14 tins Cooked Ham         | .. | .. | .. | .. | Blown      |
| 29 tins Pork Luncheon Meat |    |    | .. | .. | "          |
| 139 tins Tomatoes          | .. | .. | .. | .. | "          |
| 5 tins Peas                | .. | .. | .. | .. | "          |
| 8 tins Beef Loaf           | .. | .. | .. | .. | "          |
| 27 tins Peach Conserve     | .. | .. | .. | .. | "          |
| 7 tins Tomato Soup         | .. | .. | .. | .. | "          |
| 5 tins Greengages          | .. | .. | .. | .. | "          |
| 8 tins Beans               | .. | .. | .. | .. | "          |
| 8 tins Oranges             | .. | .. | .. | .. | "          |
| 8 tins Cherries            | .. | .. | .. | .. | "          |
| 18 tins Loganberries       | .. | .. | .. | .. | "          |
| 6 tins Stewed Steak        | .. | .. | .. | .. | "          |
| 9 tins Damsons             | .. | .. | .. | .. | "          |
| 9 tins Brawn               | .. | .. | .. | .. | "          |
| 26 tins Plums              | .. | .. | .. | .. | "          |
| 2 tins Milk                | .. | .. | .. | .. | "          |
| 3 tins Sardines            | .. | .. | .. | .. | "          |
| 61 Cartons Cheese          | .. | .. | .. | .. | Moulds     |

The following information was received from the Chief Sanitary Inspector of the County Borough of Newport with regard to the number of animals slaughtered and the amount of meat condemned at the Abattoir :—

|   |         |              |
|---|---------|--------------|
| Number of animals slaughtered                           | .. .. . | 77,079       |
| Amount of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption | .. .. . | 198,690 lbs. |

### **Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Rodent Control Scheme**

During the past year, the Rodent Control operative has been very active in carrying out treatments as prescribed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. 380 private and 25 business premises of all descriptions were dealt with and very satisfactory results were obtained.

The method of treatment prescribed, consists of baiting on four consecutive days, poisoning on the fifth, and the poison left, and any dead bodies picked up on the sixth day.

Two maintenance treatments of the sewers were carried out. This treatment consists of baiting on two days and poisoning on the third day. From past experience I can say that the sewer treatments have the effect of keeping the degree of infestation at a safe, low level and this has a correspondingly beneficial effect upon the degree and severity of surface infestations.

I am pleased to report that the Rodent Control Operative is most enthusiastic and conscientious, and is doing a most important job in a very praiseworthy manner.

A very good sign, too, is the growing consciousness of this problem among the general public, and we find that apart from the infestations found during routine inspections, people are becoming more co-operative in quickly reporting complaints of rats and mice.

### **Milk Supplies**

During the year much time was devoted to the carrying out of the new legislation contained in The Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949, The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949, and The Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949, make a distinction between dairy farmers, i.e. milk producers, and milk distributors, i.e. persons trading from premises other than a dairy farm, and between dairy farms and other premises at which milk is handled. The registrations of dairy farmers and dairy farms under the Regu-



lations is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the registration of milk distributors and other dairy premises is the responsibility of local authorities. This means that Officers of Local Authorities no longer have power to visit dairy farms to inspect conditions under which milk is produced.

During the year 34 samples of milk were taken and submitted to the laboratory for bacteriological analysis. Of these 32 were found to be satisfactory but the remaining 2 failed to pass the tests required.

When samples of raw milk are found to be unsatisfactory, the reports are forwarded to the Milk Production Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries so that the farms producing the milk can be visited with the view to effecting an improvement.

### **Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947**

A great deal of time was devoted to ensuring that manufacturers and retailers of ice-cream complied with the above-mentioned regulations. This was particularly the case where the hot mix method of manufacture was used.

This method means that after the ingredients have been mixed the mixture shall not be kept for more than one hour above 45°F. before being raised to and kept at a temperature of not less than 150°F. for 30 minutes or 160°F. for 10 minutes. It shall then, within 1½ hours be reduced to not more than 45°F. and there kept until freezing is begun. Ice cream must not be sold unless kept at a temperature not exceeding 28°F.

Eight samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted to the laboratory for bacteriological analysis. Of these 5 were satisfactory, but the remaining three were found to be in a grade which is considered unsatisfactory.

### **Infectious Disease**

All notified cases of infectious diseases were promptly visited and all efforts were made to trace any possible source of infection.

Advice as to the precautions necessary to be taken is given to the householder. Every house is thoroughly sprayed or fumigated when the attending doctor certifies the patient to be free from infection.

### **Shops Acts, 1912—1938**

The shops in the district were visited on many occasions in order to ensure that the above-mentioned Acts were being complied with.

Whilst carrying out food inspection, advantage was taken to inspect the conditions under which the employees, if any, are working.

Particular attention was paid to cleanliness, sanitary conveniences and their conditions, washing facilities, and as to whether seating accommodation was provided for female employees.

With regard to the above-mentioned matters, I can report that these requirements are being observed by the shop-keepers generally.

### **Verminous Premises**

During routine house inspection of both private and Council properties, care is taken to ascertain any infestation by vermin.

Any cases which are found in this way and those which are reported by tenants are dealt with by spraying with an insecticide and satisfactory results have been obtained. Eleven houses found to be infested with bugs were dealt with in this way and eradication affected.

I am, your obedient Servant,

GLYN M. JENKINS,

Sanitary Inspector.





